



The Tower House, built circa 1888, stands as a rare and well-preserved example of the stylistic transition in residential architecture from the Late Victorian Queen Anne style to the early Colonial Revival style in Fairfax County. It combines iconic elements of both styles. While displaying the asymmetrical form and layout of a Queen Anne style house, the Tower House prominently features classically derived decorative elements on its main façade. In addition, the house possesses one of the best-preserved early Colonial Revival-style interiors in Fairfax County.

From the late nineteenth century until World War II, a succession of upper middle-class individuals owned the Tower House. Many of the owners attained local or national prominence; however only two owned the property for ten years or more. The longest period of individual ownership was that of James A. and Ethel Marsland Drain's sixteen-year tenure (1920-1936). Between 1941 and 1994, a religious organization, the World Wide Baraca Philathea Union, owned the property and occupied the house as their international headquarters. Previously known as "Edgewater" and "Marsland-on-the-Potomac," the house took its present moniker - "Tower House" - when the religious group purchased it in 1941.

[Nomination Form](#)

Tower House

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places May 2, 2006

